5 **Claims**

1.   In a disc drive comprising at least one disc having a plurality of
addressable sectors arranged in a plurality of tracks on a surface of the disc,
10   the sectors being categorised into zones such that data is capable of being
written to and read from different zones at different rates, a method of
storing information on defective sectors comprising steps of:

(a) sorting defective sectors by zone;

(b) defining a cluster comprising at least one defective sector;

15   (c) selecting one sector from the cluster to be a reference sector;

(d) defining parameters with reference to the reference sector, the
parameters describing the shape and size of the cluster;

(e) storing the parameters with an address of the reference sector   ;
and

20   (f) performing the steps (b) to (e) separately for each zone.

2.   A method of Claim 1 wherein the defining step (b) further comprises
a step of including at least one non-defective sector in the cluster.

25 3.   A method of Claim 1 wherein the selecting step (c) includes
selecting the sector with the smallest address to be the reference sector.

4.   A method of Claim 1 wherein the selecting step (c) includes
selecting the sector with the largest address to be the reference sector.

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5.   A method of Claim 1 wherein the defining step (d) further includes
defining a scratch parameter characterizing the number of tracks covered
by the cluster.

5   6.   A method of Claim 1 wherein the defining step (d) further includes
defining a span parameter characterizing the number of sectors covered by
the cluster along each track.

7.   A method of Claim 1 wherein the defining step (d) further includes
10   defining an angle parameter characterizing the angluar deviation of a side
of the cluster from a reference line intersecting the reference sector.

8.   A method of Claim 1 further comprising defining a radial line to be
the reference line.